



National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Goddard Space Flight Center

Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Virginia

# Inside Wallops

Volume XX-00

Number: 03

Jan. 24, 2000

## **NASA Team Year-End Accomplishments** *A message from the Administrator*

Now that you have settled into the New Year and recovered from the flurry of holiday activity, I want to thank you for making the transition into the new millennium look easy. But we all know it was anything but easy.

Hundreds of NASA employees and contractors — led by the Agency's Y2K team — have been working since 1996 to make sure the agency was ready. Many of you did this in addition to other duties, and also gave up your New Years' Eve holiday to make sure everything went right.



Administrator Dan Goldin

We had a few minor anomalies that were easily fixed, but no significant problems. Only two of those anomalies — involving two pieces of planning software for the Deep Space Network and the Upper Atmosphere Research Satellite — appear to be Y2K related. Neither affected real-time, mission-critical systems. That we were able to make the transition without any significant problems is a tribute to your commitment and hard work. For all your efforts, thank you and congratulations.

I also want to thank the NASA team for extraordinary efforts in the final days of 1999. In less than 72 hours, we saw the launch of three spacecraft with spectacular missions — Terra on Dec. 18, the Space Shuttle Discovery on Dec. 19, and ACRIMSAT on Dec. 20.

To the Space Shuttle team, you are proving time and time again that you are dedicated to excellence and safety. You don't just talk the talk. You walk the walk. You put mission success ahead of personal priorities.

The meticulous attention to detail that was apparent during your launch readiness process is a testament to your professionalism. The nation appreciates the personal sacrifices that you and your families made during the holiday season to ensure the safety of our astronauts and the success of the flight.

The STS-103 Hubble Space Telescope servicing mission has restored the world's "eyes" on the Universe. Thanks to your efforts, the telescope will

continue to astonish astronomers, inspire the public, and give us new insights into our galaxy.

While the Hubble focuses its "eyes" outward, NASA/USAF/industry teams are taking us into a new era in Earth observation with the launch of Terra and ACRIMSAT. The Terra team rose to the unique challenges of the mission, a narrow window combined with the maiden launch of the Atlas Centaur vehicle on a new launch complex at Vandenberg Air Force Base. Throughout the launch readiness process, you remained focused on safety and mission success, accepting schedule impacts associated with ensuring the highest probability of mission success.

NASA's ACRIMSAT team joined forces with our corporate partners to guarantee a safe and successful ride to orbit. Both Terra and ACRIMSAT will change and improve our understanding of Earth, and help us better manage the precious resources of our home planet. Like the Shuttle and Y2K teams, your personal sacrifices over the holiday period did not go unnoticed, and your dedication to NASA and to the nation is greatly appreciated.

Everyone involved with the Y2K, Shuttle, Terra and ACRIMSAT teams should be very proud of their contributions to these end-of-the-year missions, giving NASA and America a tremendous end to a very dynamic year. Thank you from all of us!

## **Salomonson Charts New Course**

Dr. Vincent V. Salomonson has announced he will "step aside" as Director of the Earth Sciences Directorate, remaining in the position until a successor is named. Salomonson told employees that his decision was sparked by his desire to see the Directorate taken "to the next level," and his wanting to be more involved in the science of the MODIS instrument recently launched aboard the Terra satellite.

"Vince has provided exceptional leadership to the Earth Sciences directorate for the past 10 years" said Center Director Al Diaz. "I think this decision by Vince shows extraordinary selflessness and demonstrates why we think so much of Vince. I'm glad he's going to remain at Goddard, because I plan to call on his advice and counsel often."

Diaz intends to launch a nation-wide search for the new Earth Sciences Director, and Salomonson has agreed to stay on as Director-of until a replacement is found. "Let me assure you that until a replacement is found and on-board, I plan to work and function over the next weeks or months in leading and supporting the Directorate as if I was to be in the position for any foreseeable future."

**Center Director's  
All Hands Session  
Jan. 28  
1 p.m.  
Wallops T.V. Channel 6**

## **Flags at Half Staff**

All government flags will be flown at half-staff on Thursday, Jan. 27, in memory of the three-member astronaut crew who perished in the Apollo 1 fire. They will remain at half-staff on Friday, Jan. 28, in memory of the seven astronauts who perished in the STS-51L Challenger accident.



## **Apollo 204 (Apollo 1)**

On January 27, 1967, tragedy struck the Apollo program when a flash fire occurred in command module 012 during a launch pad test of the Apollo/Saturn space vehicle being prepared for the first piloted flight, the AS-204 mission. Three astronauts, Lt. Col. Virgil I. Grissom, a veteran of Mercury and Gemini missions; Lt. Col. Edward H. White, the astronaut

who had performed the first United States extravehicular activity during the Gemini program; and Roger B. Chaffee, an astronaut preparing for his first space flight, died in this tragic accident.

## **Challenger/STS-51L**

On January 28, 1986, Space Shuttle Challenger was launched with a crew of seven astronauts, Dick Scobee, Michael Smith, Judith Resnik, Ellison Onizuka, Ronald McNair, Christa McAuliffe and Gregory Jarvis. Tragically, 73 seconds after lift-off, the spacecraft exploded, killing its entire crew.

**Safety Message from the Administrator**

**Hearing Conservation**

Some NASA operations require working in environments where ambient noise levels are capable of damaging the hearing of NASA employees. Some of those operations, such as high pressure air distribution venting, are so loud that they have the potential for causing immediate traumatic hearing loss. Many other operations can result in noise induced hearing loss from chronic exposure.

We have become keenly aware of noise induced hearing loss from space crews who experienced continuous noise exposure aboard the Mir Space Station. Although not as visible, every NASA Center has hundreds of employees potentially exposed to harmful noise levels in our workplaces.

Hearing loss is preventable. I expect full compliance with the NASA noise exposure standard and effective management involvement to assure all elements of the NASA Hearing Conservation Program (HCP) are afforded to the NASA work force.

Every year employees from NASA Centers are identified as having hearing loss that may be linked to their on-the-job noise exposures.

Since 1994, over 100 NASA employees have filed for workers' compensation due to hearing loss which occurred while working for NASA. NASA has paid out over \$1 million for those claims.

We know that those costs are only the tip of the iceberg as far as representing the true picture of hearing loss among the NASA work force. Workers' compensation costs pale in comparison to the impact felt by each member of the work force suffering with a loss of hearing.



Weekly health topics will be available on the NASA web site (<http://www.nasa.gov>) as well as the Occupational Health web site (<http://ohp.ksc.nasa.gov>).

Questions about the Health Initiative and program content should be directed to the Program Manager, Dr. William Barry, (407) 867-6341.

**FOR SALE**

1993 Oldsmobile Cutlass Cierra, \$4,800 - good condition. Call 787-7290 after 5:30 p.m.



*Space reserved for mailing labels.*

**ISO 9001 Surveillance Audit Scheduled for Late February**

The first ISO9001 Surveillance Audit of the GSFC Quality Management System (QMS) at Greenbelt and Wallops is scheduled for Feb. 28 to March 3.

A surveillance audit is a check on the continued compliance of GSFC's QMS with ISO 9001 requirements.

Surveillance audits happen every six months and are generally shorter and less intense than the initial compliance audit, although there is typically an increased rigor in interpretation of the Standard and an expectation of system improvements.

For more information, visit the ISO web site: <http://arioch.gsfc.nasa.gov/iso9000/>

**School Visits**

The Wallops Flight Facility is offering to have engineers, scientists and technicians visit classrooms in Virginia and Maryland during National Engineers Week. Subject areas are mathematics, engineering, computer science, Earth science and physics.

We currently have requests from nine local schools for visits to 35 different classes. Most of the requests have been filled, but the following classes are still available.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Level Alegbra I Classes**  
Mary N. Smith Middle School - 14 students  
Parksley Middle School - 14 students  
Central Middle School - 15 students

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade - Math and Science Class**  
Northampton Middle School  
23 students in four classes

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade - Math Class**  
Northampton Middle School  
20 students in two classes

**10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Physics Class**  
Holly Grove Christian School - 12 students

**12<sup>th</sup> Grade Physics Class**  
Holly Grove Christian School - 6 students

Employees (civil service and contractor) who are interested in participating in the school visits should contact Betty Flowers, x1584 ([elizabeth.b.flowers.1@gsfc.nasa.gov](mailto:elizabeth.b.flowers.1@gsfc.nasa.gov)) or Keith Koehler, x1579 ([keith.a.koehler.1@gsfc.nasa.gov](mailto:keith.a.koehler.1@gsfc.nasa.gov))

**NASA College Scholarship**

Applications for the NASA College Scholarship Fund are now available in the Public Affairs Office, Rm. 108, Bldg. F-6. The scholarship, \$2,000 each, is open to all qualified dependents of NASA employees, NASA retirees, and former NASA employees or detailees.

The deadline for applications is March 31.

**Thrift Savings Plan Open Season Ends January 31**

**Spacecraft Systems Engineering Course**

Old Dominion University is offering a Master's level course in Spacecraft Systems Engineering this term. The course began January 11 but, according to the instructor, Dr. Bob Ash, it is not too late to enroll and take the course. The design of this course allows it to be provided both live and/or via tape to meet the individual student's needs. Past classes can be made up by reviewing available video tapes.

The course is intended to introduce students to the "big picture" aspects of space systems engineering to better enable them to work in that environment. A partial syllabus is available which shows the course plan through the fifth week. The plan for the second half of the course will be focused on projects that could fly on a sounding rocket.

Anyone interested in having more information about this course should contact:

Jack Bonniwell, Site Director  
ODU TELETECHNET  
Eastern Shore, Wallops Island, and Shore Memorial sites  
E-mail: [jbonniwe@odu.edu](mailto:jbonniwe@odu.edu)  
Phone: (757) 787-5590  
FAX: (757) 787-5591

*Inside Wallops* is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees.

Editor Betty Flowers  
Photography Optical Section  
Printing Printing Management Office